

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 16-74V

Filed: March 10, 2017

UNPUBLISHED

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RIGO GUZMAN,	*	
	*	
	*	
Petitioner,	*	Joint Stipulation on Damages;
v.	*	Tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis;
	*	Tdap; Guillain-Barre Syndrome ("GBS");
SECRETARY OF HEALTH	*	Special Processing Unit ("SPU")
AND HUMAN SERVICES,	*	
	*	
Respondent.	*	
	*	

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*Danielle Anne Strait, Maglio Christopher & Toale, PA, Washington, DC, for petitioner.  
Glenn Alexander MacLeod, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.*

### DECISION ON JOINT STIPULATION<sup>1</sup>

**Dorsey**, Chief Special Master:

On January 13, 2016, petitioner filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*,<sup>2</sup> (the "Vaccine Act"). Petitioner alleges that he suffered Guillain-Barre Syndrome ("GBS") as a result of his May 23, 2013 Tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis ("Tdap") vaccination. Petition at 1-2; Stipulation, filed March 10, 2017, at ¶ 4. Petitioner further alleges he experienced residual effects of his condition for more than six months and that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages on his behalf as a result of his condition. Petition at 3; Stipulation at ¶¶ 4-5. "Respondent denies that the Tdap vaccine caused petitioner's alleged GBS, or any other injury, and further denies that his current disabilities are sequela of a vaccine-related injury." Stipulation at ¶ 6.

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<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, the undersigned intends to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, the undersigned agrees that the identified material fits within this definition, the undersigned will redact such material from public access.

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all "§" references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

Nevertheless, on March 10, 2017, the parties filed the attached joint stipulation, stating that a decision should be entered awarding compensation. The undersigned finds the stipulation reasonable and adopts it as the decision of the Court in awarding damages, on the terms set forth therein.

The parties stipulate that petitioner shall receive the following compensation:

**A lump sum of \$150,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner.**  
Stipulation at ¶ 8. This amount represents compensation for all items of damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). *Id.*

The undersigned approves the requested amount for petitioner's compensation. In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC Appendix B, the clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Nora Beth Dorsey**

Nora Beth Dorsey  
Chief Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

\*\*\*\*\*  
RIGO GUZMAN, \*  
Petitioner, \*  
v. \*  
\*  
SECRETARY OF HEALTH \*  
AND HUMAN SERVICES, \*  
\*  
Respondent. \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

## STIPULATION

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. Petitioner, Rigo Guzman, filed a petition for vaccine compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 to 34 (the “Vaccine Program”). The petition seeks compensation for injuries allegedly related to petitioner’s receipt of the Tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis (“Tdap”) vaccine, which vaccine is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the “Table”), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3(a).

2. Petitioner received the Tdap vaccine on or about May 23, 2013.

3. The vaccine was administered within the United States.

4. Petitioner alleges that he suffered Guillain-Barre Syndrome (“GBS”) as a result of his May 23, 2013 Tdap immunization, and further alleges that he experienced the residual effects of this injury for more than six months.

5. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages on his behalf as a result of his condition.

6. Respondent denies that the Tdap vaccine caused petitioner's alleged GBS, or any other injury, and further denies that his current disabilities are a sequela of a vaccine-related injury.

7. Maintaining their above-stated positions, the parties nevertheless now agree that the issues between them shall be settled and that a decision should be entered awarding the compensation described in paragraph 8 of this Stipulation.

8. As soon as practicable after an entry of judgment reflecting a decision consistent with the terms of this Stipulation, and after petitioner has filed an election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), the Secretary of Health and Human Services will issue the following vaccine compensation payment:

A lump sum of \$150,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner, representing compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).

9. As soon as practicable after the entry of judgment on entitlement in this case, and after petitioner has filed both a proper and timely election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), and an application, the parties will submit to further proceedings before the special master to award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in proceeding upon this petition.

10. Petitioner and his attorney represent that compensation to be provided pursuant to this Stipulation is not for any items or services for which the Program is not primarily liable under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g), including State compensation programs, insurance policies, Federal or State health benefits programs (other than Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.)), or entities that provide health services on a prepaid basis.

11. Payment made pursuant to paragraph 8 of this Stipulation and any amounts awarded pursuant to paragraph 9 will be made in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(i), subject to the availability of sufficient statutory funds.

12. The parties and their attorneys further agree and stipulate that, except for any award for attorneys' fees and litigation costs, the money provided pursuant to this Stipulation will be used solely for the benefit of petitioner as contemplated by a strict construction of 42 U.S.C. §300aa-15(a) and (d), and subject to the conditions of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g) and (h).

13. In return for the payments described in paragraphs 8 and 9, petitioner, in his individual capacity, and on behalf of his heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns, does forever irrevocably and unconditionally release, acquit and discharge the United States and the Secretary of Health and Human Services from any and all actions or causes of action (including agreements, judgments, claims, damages, loss of services, expenses and all demands of whatever kind or nature) that have been brought, could have been brought, or could be timely brought in the United States Court of Federal Claims, under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 et seq., on account of, or in any way growing out of, any and all known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected personal injuries to or death of petitioner resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the Tdap vaccination administered on or about May 23, 2013, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about January 13, 2016, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 16-74V.

14. If petitioner should die prior to entry of judgment, this agreement shall be voidable upon proper notice to the Court on behalf of either or both of the parties.

15. If the special master fails to issue a decision in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation or if the United States Court of Federal Claims fails to enter judgment in

conformity with a decision that is in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation, then the parties' settlement and this Stipulation shall be voidable at the sole discretion of either party.

16. This Stipulation expresses a full and complete negotiated settlement of liability and damages claimed under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended, except as otherwise noted in paragraph 9 above. There is absolutely no agreement on the part of the parties hereto to make any payment or do any act or thing other than is herein expressly stated and clearly agreed to. The parties further agree and understand that the award described in this Stipulation may reflect a compromise of the parties' respective positions as to liability and/or amount of damages, and further, that a change in the nature of the injury or condition or in the items of compensation sought, is not grounds to modify or revise this agreement.

17. This Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission by the United States or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that the Tdap vaccine caused petitioner's alleged GBS, or any other injury or any of his current disabilities.

18. All rights and obligations of petitioner hereunder shall apply equally to petitioner's heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and/or assigns.

END OF STIPULATION

Respectfully submitted,

**PETITIONER:**

Rigo Guzman  
RIGO GUZMAN

**ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR  
PETITIONER:**

Isaiah Kalinowski for Danielle Strait  
DANIELLE A. STRAIT, ESQ.  
MAGLIO CHRISTOPHER & TOALE, PA  
1775 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 225  
Washington, DC 20006  
Tel: (888) 952-5242

**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:**

Catharine E.  
CATHARINE E. REEVES  
Deputy Director  
Torts Branch  
Civil Division  
U. S. Department of Justice  
P. O. Box 146  
Benjamin Franklin Station  
Washington, D.C. 20044-0146

**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES:**

Narayan Nair  
NARAYAN NAIR, M.D.  
Director, Division of Injury  
Compensation Programs  
Healthcare Systems Bureau  
Health Resources and Services Administration  
U.S. Department of Health  
and Human Services  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Parklawn Building, Stop-08N146B  
Rockville, MD 20857

**ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR  
RESPONDENT:**

Glenn A. MacLeod  
GLENN A. MACLEOD  
Senior Trial Counsel  
Torts Branch, Civil Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 146  
Benjamin Franklin Station  
Washington, D.C. 20044-0146  
Tel: (202) 616-4122

Dated: 3/10/17